Northwest Territories Municipal and Community Affairs

Youth Programs Annual Report

2006-2007

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 Minister's Message

A message from the Honourable Michael McLeod, Minister Responsible for Youth

3 Youth Programs

3 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Program

4 Youth Trapper Training Program

5 Youth Ambassadors Program

6 Youth Forum 2007

10 Youth Corps Program

13 Youth Contributions Program

16 Contact Information

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

In the Northwest Territories, young people are the fastest growing segment of our population. Over half of our residents are under 30 years of age. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to providing youth with a variety of opportunities that promote healthy choices, nurture leadership abilities and support positive life-style choices, resulting in personal well-being and a better quality of life in communities.

I am proud of the accomplishments achieved by the projects the Department supports, particularly those that offer options for young people who may not respond well to regular school or community programs. It is my hope that the youth who benefit from these initiatives will go on to carve out new and positive opportunities for themselves and then lend a hand to future generations when they are in need of guidance.

For more information on the Department's Youth Programs, please contact the Municipal and Community Affairs office in your region.

Honourable Michael McLeod
Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs

National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Program

"The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards were established to build self-esteem and pride for the Aboriginal community and to provide role models for Aboriginal youth. The awards serve to inform youth of the strides that are being made by individuals who have the discipline, drive and determination to set high standards and accomplish their goals." (Excerpt from NAAA website)

In 2007, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs sponsored a trip to the awards by a selected group of youth as part of the Northern Youth Strategy. The opportunity to take part was publicized across the Northwest Territories. The individuals selected were chosen based on the merits of their applications and the references they proved. Four youth from Lutselk'e, Fort McPherson, Deline and Yellowknife were chosen.

The group and two chaperones traveled to Edmonton, Alberta, from March 14 to 17, 2007, to attend the 14th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. In addition to attending the awards ceremony, the youth also participated in a special luncheon sponsored by Suncor, which involved youth from other parts of Canada and the award recipients.

The highlight of the trip was an opportunity for youth to discuss their own dreams and aspirations with the award winners including the two Northwest Territories recipients, Fred Carmichael of Aklavik and Alestine Andre of Tsiighetchic.

Take a Kid Trapping Program

The Government of the Northwest Territories "Take a Kid Trapping Program" gives interested young people an opportunity to learn traditional trapping skills under the guidelines established by the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program. Youth also learn safety and 'on the land' traditional skills.

The Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs; Industry, Tourism and Investment; and Environment and Natural Resources are co-sponsors of the Program. NWT schools in cooperation with Renewable Resource Officers and other local organizations support the program locally.

Over the winter of 2006 – 2007, the Take a Kid Trapping Program supported 21 projects involving over 1000 youth. For more information about the Take a Kid Trapping Program, see the 2005-2007 Take a Kid Trapping Program Report, available at the MACA office in your region or on the web at: www.maca.gov.nt.ca.

Youth Ambassadors Program

In 2007, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs sponsored the Youth Ambassadors Program as part of the Northwest Territories commitment to support the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon. The goal of the program was to provide youth with an opportunity to build leadership skills through volunteer assignments at the Games and act as ambassadors for the NWT.

Twenty-six youth from twenty-four NWT communities participated in the Program. The opportunity to take part was publicized across the Northwest Territories. The youth selected were chosen based on the merits of their applications and the references they provided.

In February 2007, the youth came to Yellowknife to participate in a three-day orientation session, which included hospitality training, information on the Games and various 'get to know you' sessions. The youth also had a chance to finalize the selection of their volunteer assignments at the Games.

During their time at the Games, the NWT Ambassadors were joined by others from Nunavut and the Yukon. Volunteer assignments included working with television personnel to support broadcasting of the Games, visitor reception at NWT House, sport officials' duties, athlete services organizers and numerous other tasks required to run this complex national event.

A change occurred within each and every participant in the program. Their self-esteem and confidence improved along with their ability to deal with new and challenging situations. Almost all youth expressed a desire to get involved in other leadership development projects in the future.

Youth Forum 2007

Summary

In February 2007, the Department on Municipal and Community Affairs sponsored a special *Youth Forum* involving 29 youth from 26 Northwest Territories communities as a way of seeking input on issues important to young people. The format of the event followed the design of a successful similar event in 2005 called the *Northern Youth Strategy Workshop*.

The forum involved a facilitated consultation session during which the 2005 report was reviewed. The participants were then encouraged to identify their own suggestions and concerns which were later discussed, refined and prioritized for presentation to the Minister Responsible for Youth, the Honourable Michael McLeod.

In total, the youth identified suggestions and concerns in five broad categories: sport and recreation, employment, global warming, alcohol and drug abuse and cultural programs. During a luncheon with the Minister, the youth were able to present these and 32 related recommendations. A summary of these recommendations are provided on the following pages. During a question and answer period, the Minister provided useful information to participants and even asked a few of his own questions.

The Department has benefited enormously by this experience and will pursue a similar event in 2007-2008. A copy of the full 2007 Youth Forum Report is available at www.maca.gov.nt.ca/sport/youth/index.html.

Youth Forum 2007

Youth Feedback & Recommendations

The promotion and enhancement of youth sport and recreation programs, facilities and equipment.

- More equipment to support and enhance sports and recreation programs.
- More direct support for cross country skiing sport activities such as equipment for youth, trail setting and coaches, etc.
- More direct support to soccer in the NWT, such as field development and maintenance, nets, balls, etc.
- Increased funding from the GNWT to communities and youth groups for new facilities, equipment, and transportation for youth to travel to sporting events in other communities.
- Expansion and enhancement of youth facilities and their programs, such as wireless internet access, addition of pool, hockey and foosball tables, basketball courts and better canteens.
- New sport equipment for all schools in the NWT, regardless of their size and location.
- Development of better sport and recreation facilities in smaller communities to equal what is available in the larger centers.
- New locations for sporting events and trials such as the smaller communities vs. the larger centers.
- Creation of more sporting events in the NWT (beyond existing programs) to get more youth involved in physical activities and fitness.
- Enhancement of existing sport and recreation programs to create more opportunities for youth in smaller communities to participate in the Arctic Winter Games.

Youth Forum 2007

Creation and enhancement of employment opportunities in the North for youth (both in and out of high school).

- Creation of more youth related employment opportunities.
- Summer employment opportunities within the GNWT to include all youth not just post-secondary students returning from school.
- More youth employment opportunities within the trades in all northern communities.
- More facilities in the communities to train youth for employment.
- Provision of safety training to youth for employment opportunities in the same manner as adult pre-employment programs.
- Increased on-the-job training and work experience programs for youth.

Address global warming in the NWT.

- Providing free recycling bins to encourage community recycling programs.
- Establishment of recycling programs and depots in all NWT communities.
- Promotion of energy efficient vehicles to reduce air pollution.
- Putting pressure through regulations and surcharges on the major contributors to global warning.
- Involvement of youth in the regulatory and approval process for the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.
- The creatation of awareness programs in NWT schools concerning the extent of global warming, how to reduce it and the best way to protect our northern environment.

Youth Forum 2007

Prevention of alcohol and drug use/abuse and pregnancy in youth.

- Encouragement of proper moral behavior and promotion of moral values amongst youth.
- Development of realistic school curriculum that teaches the dangers and negative impacts (including consequences) of alcohol and drug use/abuse and pregnancy in youth.
- Development of programs that promote and encourage self-esteem in youth.
- Expansion and enhancement of programs, services and support for teen mothers and youth involved in alcohol and drug use/abuse.
- Creation of safe houses for youth.

Expansion of "On the Land" and cultural programs in NWT schools to promote traditional lifestyles.

- Focusing on the programming that emphasizes "bringing back" culture into the lives of youth.
- Offering more and expanded "On the Land" programs for youth.
- Funding equipment and teaching resources to present "On the Land" programs for youth.
- Making resources available for language programming to prevent the loss of aboriginal languages in youth.
- Involving elders in the design and delivery of "On the Land" and cultural programs in schools.

* Full reports on these programs can be found at :
www.maca.gov.nt.ca/sport/youth/index.html

2006 - 2007 Youth Corps Program Highlights

The NWT Youth Corps Program was established to assist youth serving organizations with specialized programs that offer a structured and varied program of outdoor/cultural/environmental, educational, work, life and personal growth experiences that challenge, engage, reward and recognize youth. The programs must be designed to assist youth in developing their skills, and contributing to their communities. Short term specialized projects are eligible for minor assistance. Longer term, multi-year projects can access larger contributions.

The projects highlighted below represent some of the initiatives supported through the NWT Youth Corps Program in 2006-2007.

Arctic Youth Leadership Program – Outward Bound

The Inuvialuit Development Corporation's Arctic Youth Leadership Program is best described by an excerpt from the program's website, "Challenging journeys of adventure - 320 kilometers down the Horton River. While paddling a canoe and navigating white water, youth learn to work as team and live on the land. The goal: to help youth realize that there is more in them than they know and that the strengths they found in themselves on the river can be taken home and with them into the future." In 2006, twelve Inuvialuit participated.

Kole Crook Fiddle Camp

The 2006 Kole Crook Fiddle Camp brought together young fiddlers from nine Dehcho and South Slave communities to learn to play the instrument and improve their musical skills. The camp included daily instructional lessons, a jam session, talent show, community dance and final concert. The participants were encouraged to practice their new skills over the winter and return to the camp the next summer. A series of mini camps were also held in Fort Providence, Wrigley, Jean Marie River, Fort Smith and Fort Resolution.

2006 - 2007 Youth Corps Program Highlights

Northern Youth Abroad

The Northern Youth Abroad Program provides an opportunity for NWT and Nunavut youth, age 15 to 21, to acquire professional skills and training, hands on work experience, and high school credits through a cross cultural work and learning experience in southern Canada and abroad. In 2006 - 2007 youth from Fort Good Hope, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Deline, Inuvik, Aklavik and Fort McPherson participated in the program.

Dehcho First Nations Science Camp

The Hay River Reserve hosted the Dehcho First Nations Science Camp in August 2006. Youth from across the Dehcho participated in the program that combined traditional knowledge with scientific resources. Youth also learned about environmental stewardship, forest ecology, canoe and water safety, safety on the land and career opportunities in science.

Mackenzie River Youth Trip

The Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association sponsored a Wrigley to Norman Wells youth canoe trip as part of the 2007 Canada Games torch relay. Fifteen Northwest Territories youth participated in the fifteen day trip which included various leadership development activities, environmental studies, navigation training and survival skills.

2006 - 2007 Youth Corps Program Funded Projects

	Organization	Project	Contribution
Inuvik Region			
Inuvik	Inuvialuit Development Corporation	Outward Bound (Year 3)	$40,000
Inuvik	Beaufort Delta Education Council	Youth Entry Level Skills Program	$60,000
Fort McPherson	Hamlet Council	Youth Conference	$20,000
Tuktoyaktuk	Tuktoyaktuk Recovery Foundation	Recovery Program	$9,300
	Total		**$129,300**
Sahtu Region			
Tulita	Tulita Dene Band	Tulita Ts'odaneke Program	$77,501
Tulita	Tulita Dene Band	Canol Trail Program	$20,000
All	Sahtu District Education Council	Cultural Program	$10,000
	Total		**$107,501**
Dehcho Region			
Nahanni Butte and Kakisa	Dehcho District Education Council	Outdoor Education Program - Part 3	$60,000
Fort Simpson	Dehcho District Education Council	Youth Development Program - Part 2	$70,000
Fort Simpson	NWT Recreation and Parks	Wilderness Trip	$29,982
Fort Simpson	Dehcho Friendship Centre	Cultural and Youth Leadership Program	$10,000
Fort Simpson	Village of Fort Simpson	Cultural Program	$10,000
Wrigley	Band Council	Kole Crook Fiddle Camp	$20,800
Wrigley	Wrigley Youth Council	Youth Cultural Camp	$10,000
Fort Liard	Hamlet of Fort Liard	Youth Development Program - Part 3	$40,000
All	Dehcho First Nations	Science Camp	$40,000
	Total		**$290,782**
North Slave Region			
Behchoko	Community Government of Behchoko	Youth Conference	$10,000
	Total		**$10,000**
South Slave Region			
Fort Resolution	Community Council	Youth Leadership - Part 3	$35,000
Hay River Reserve	Band Council	Youth Development Project	$10,000
	Total		**$45,000**
Territorial			
All	Northern Youth Abroud	** Co-funded by ECE*	$100,000
All	Trapper Training Program	*** Co-funded by ENR & ITI*	$125,000
	Total		**$225,000**
	Total All Regions		**$807,583**

2006 - 2007 Youth Contributions ProgramHighlights

The Youth Contributions Program was established to assist youth serving organizations with special programs and services that help young people make the decision to pursue a healthy lifestyle. Small contributions are available for traditional Aboriginal cultural events; school related extra-curricular activities and trips or youth trips sponsored by other organizations; development of youth related organizations, including annual general meetings and conferences as well as the development of plans for those organizations. An emphasis is placed on projects that are new and innovative and targeted at improving lifestyle choices.

Youth Contributions Program Highlights

In 2006 - 2007, the Youth Contributions program provided $162,000 in funding for 43 projects in 25 different Northwest Territories communities.

The range of projects supported included:

- Cultural and heritage related initiatives,
- On the land programs,
- Career fairs,
- Participation in the Dream Catchers Conference in Edmonton,
- Youth exchanges,
- Music festival participation,
- A Nahanni River trip,
- A birch bark canoe construction project,
- Aboriginal Day events,
- A science camp,
- A war and remembrance tour,
- Youth participation in regional assemblies,
- Training programs,
- Youth Conferences, and a
- Summer Camp for foster children

The average contribution per project was just under $3,800. Most project sponsors also contributed their own resources and/or located other sources of funding to support these worthwhile initiatives.

2006 - 2007 Youth Contributions Program Funded Projects

	Organization	Project	Contribution
Inuvik Region			
Inuvik	Inuvik Native Band	War and Remembrance Tour	$2,500
Inuvik	Ingamo Hall	Cultural and Heritage Teachings Trip	$2,000
Inuvik	Town of Inuvik	End of the Road Music Festival	$2,000
Inuvik	Inuvik Youth Centre	On the Land Program	$1,500
Fort MacPherson	Gwich'in Tribal Council	Gwich'in Assembly Gathering	$2,000
Fort MacPherson	Gwich'in Tribal Council	Travel to Career Fair in Yellowknife	$1,330
Tuktoyaktuk	Community Government	Aboriginal Youth Dream Catchers	$2,500
Paulatuk	Paultatuk Youth Group	Aboriginal Youth Dream Catchers	$2,500
	Total		**$16,330**
Sahtu Region			
Norman Wells	Norman Wells Speed Skating Club	Educational Trip to Yellowknife	$3,750
Deline	Sahtu District Education Council	Youth Exchange	$3,750
Deline	Sahtu District Education Council	On the Land Program	$3,750
Fort Good Hope	Sahtu District Education Council	On the Land Program	$3,750
Tulita	Sahtu District Education Council	Youth Exchange	$2,500
	Total		**$17,500**
Dehcho Region			
Wrigley	Wrigley School	Educational Trip in the NWT	$3,750
Jean Marie River	Jean Marie River School	Southern Educational Trip	$2,500
Trout Lake	Trout Lake School	School trip down the Nahanni	$3,750
Fort Liard	Fort Liard School	Educational Exchange	$2,500
Fort Simpson	Fort Simpson Cultural Group	Cultural and Sport Trip	$2,500
Fort Simpson	Bompas School	Educational trip for Grade 6	$1,000
Nahanni Butte	Animal Action Awards	Training Program	$2,500
	Total		**$18,500**
North Slave Region			
Dettah/N'dilo	K'alemi Dene School	Birch Bark Canoe Project	$3,750
Behchoko	Chief Jimmy Bruneau School	Cultural and Sport Trip	$2,500
Behchoko	Tli-Cho Society	Aboriginal Youth Dream Catchers	$2,500
Behchoko	Rae Edzo Friendship Centre	Aboriginal Day Youth Celebrations	$3,750
Yellowknife	Side Door Youth Ministries	Youth Conference in Edmonton	$2,500
Yellowknife	Range Lake North School	Cultural Exchange	$3,750
Yellowknife	Travel to Aboriginal Music Awards	Kiera Kolson	$1,586
Whati	Community Government of Whati	Youth Culture Camp	$3,750
Wekweeti	Community Government of Wekweeti	Cultural/Snowshoeing Program	$3,750
	Total		**$25,336**

2006 - 2007 Youth Contributions Program Funded Projects

South Slave Region			
Hay River	Diamond Jenness Secondary School	French Trip to Quebec	$2,500
Hay River Reserve	Hay River Reserve	Aboriginal Youth Dream Catchers	$2,500
Fort Providence	Deh Gah School	International Children's Festival	$2,500
Fort Providence	Deh Gah School	Bamfield Marine Science Camp	$2,500
Fort Providence	Deh Gah School	Youth Conference - Victoria, BC	$7,692
Fort Providence	Deh Gah School	Educational Experiences Trip	$2,500
Fort Smith	Town of Fort Smith	South Slave Friendship Festival	$3,750
Kakisa	Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation	Youth Cultural Project	$3,750
Fort Resolution	Deninoo Community Council	Youth Workshop	$3,750
Fort Resolution	South Slave District of Education Council Deninu School	Power Up Conference	$3,480
Fort Resolution	Mackenzie Recreation Association	Cultural and Sport Trip	$5,000
	Total		**$39,922**

Territorial			
All	Get Your Groove On	Summer Camp Feasability Study	$3,750
All	Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance	Meeting	$5,000
All	Foster Family Coalition	Camp Connections	$35,850
	Total		**$44,600**

Total All Regions	$162,188

Contact Information

For more information about our Youth Programs, please e-mail our Youth Development Office (cory_emsley@gov.nt.ca) or call our office for Youth Development at: (867) 920-8723 or (867) 873-7329.

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North Slave
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